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Election latest-SCRD

Incumbents returned, Rees, Mulligan win

**By Jane Seyd
Reporter**

In the SCRD, voters gave incumbents a strong vote of approval, as current directors in Roberts Creek, Halfmoon Bay and Elphinstone were all returned to office.

In Halfmoon Bay, where director John Marian has been outspoken on subjects from taking the watershed fight to court to the need to share the south Coast's industrial tax base, voters returned Marian to office with 338 votes to challenger Elise Rudland's 246 votes.

That result was very similar to the last election, where Marian and Rudland faced off. Marian received the news of the win at the Wakefield Inn Saturday night, after making a decision not to sit on the edge of his seat all evening for results.

A similar result was repeated in Roberts Creek, where director Adrian Belshaw won his seat back with 558 votes to Paulean MacHale's 376. Belshaw celebrated his win amid a throng of well-wishers at his Roberts Creek home Saturday night. "I'm feeling pretty good. It's a good noisy party now," he said.

Belshaw said the return of three incumbents to the SCRD board means the public approves of the direction the board has been taking on issues like protection of the watershed and upgrades to the water system.

Top priorities for Belshaw in the next term include a regional growth strategy and coordinated transportation initiatives. He'd also like to see regional funding for the Sechelt and Gibsons libraries.

Elphinstone director Celia Fisher was also re-elected to her seat with 410 votes, beating out challengers Judith Wilson, who got 358 votes and Chuck Weatherill, who got 111.

In Pender Harbour/Egmont (Area A), John Rees won comfortably over Cheryl Steernberg, 675 to 207. At the opposite end of the Coast, Bernie Mulligan beat Jeff Collins, 321 to 252 votes in West Howe Sound (Area F).

Preliminary results

Area A—Egmont-Pender Harbour

John Rees 675

Cheryl Steernberg 207

Turnout 45.34%

Area B—Halfmoon Bay

John Marian 338

Elise Rudland 246

Turnout 35.57%

Area D—Roberts Creek

Adrian Belshaw 580

Paulean MacHale 399

Turnout: 46.44%

Area E—Elphinstone

Celia Fisher 410

Judith Wilson 358

Chuck Weatherill 110

Turnout 38.86%

Area F—West Howe Sound

Bernie Mulligan 321

Jeff Collins 252

Turnout 35.84%

Gambier (two trustees elected)

Robert Gibson 108

Kim Benson 82

Donald Twohey 65